

GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

JULY - 2025

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CONTENT

Section 1 - Tennis

The sporting world unite for the loss of two brothers, one more famous than the other, but both loved and missed. Wimbledon apologises, Sinner was just too good, Leylah Fernandez was on fire in DC...plus much more!

Section 2 - GRSA INTERNATIONAL

GRSA present in Germany, China and the Netherlands, take a look and join us at this years 2nd Global Stringer's conference.

Section 3 - Squash

News from around the world with some special wins and young promises, Nick also looks at the Prince Powerbite

Section 4 - Padel

Bea González Claims Redemption, Ustero Makes History, and new pairings for the next phase of events.

Section 5 - Pickleball

Life Time Launches Groundbreaking LT Open, and the social side of pickleball

Section 6 - Badminton

Nguyen Thuy Linh Reaches Historic World Ranking, Japan highlights, and AIU Suspends Official

IN MEMORY OF DIOGO AND ANDRÉ JOTA WHEN RIVALRIES PAUSE AND HUMANITY TAKES OVER

In times of tragedy, rivalries are paused, shirt colours put aside, and beliefs left for another moment. That was the case earlier this month, when we awoke to the heartbreaking news that Diogo Jota — beloved Liverpool FC forward and former Wolverhampton Wanderers star — had died in a car accident. His brother, André, also lost his life in the same tragic crash.

Disbelief swept across the footballing world and beyond. Figures from sport, music, and media took to social platforms to express their shock and sorrow. “It can’t be true.” “How has this happened?” The disbelief echoed for days, and still lingers weeks later.

Tributes and moments of silence were held across the sporting spectrum — from Formula 1 and Wimbledon (who allowed black armbands in a very rare dress code exception), to international women’s football. The wave of emotion extended beyond the pitch, with music artists also paying their respects. Among them, Oasis and Ed Sheeran paid heartfelt tributes to a man remembered not only for his immense talent, but also for his humility and warmth.

Goal celebrations, try dedications, victorious tennis matches, cycling podiums, BMX stunts — Jota’s memory has been honoured across countless events. The sheer volume and sincerity of these gestures have served as a reminder of how deeply Diogo touched the lives of those who knew him, watched him, or simply admired his spirit.

From these pages, we echo what so many around the world have already said: our thoughts and prayers are with the Jota family — with Diogo and André’s parents, friends, teammates, and all who loved them.

Gone far too soon, but never forgotten!

♥ You'll Never Walk Alone



DIOGO

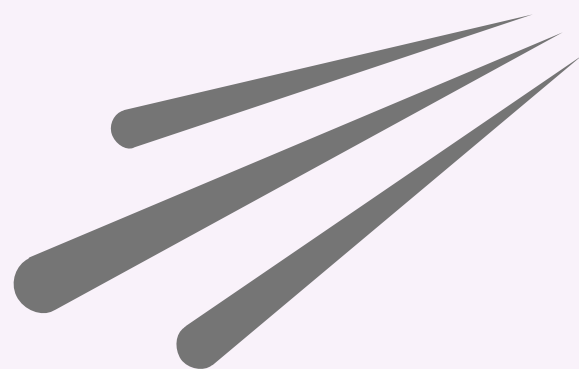
1996 - 2025

You'll Never Walk Alone



Emotional Exit for Dimitrov as Sinner Advanced at Wimbledon

Jannik Sinner admitted he “couldn’t count it as a win” after reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals in heart-wrenching circumstances, following the retirement of a tearful Grigor Dimitrov on Centre Court.



The Italian world number one, trailing by two sets and under pressure, saw the match take a dramatic turn when Dimitrov collapsed in pain, clutching his right pectoral muscle midway through the third set. Despite a medical timeout, the 34-year-old Bulgarian—seeded 19th—was unable to continue.

It marked a cruel fifth consecutive retirement for Dimitrov at a Grand Slam, adding to a string of injury setbacks that have haunted him in recent years. As he left the court visibly emotional, Sinner helped escort his friend off to warm applause.

“I don’t take this as a win at all,” Sinner said in his on-court interview, having returned after checking on Dimitrov backstage. “This is just an unfortunate moment for everyone to witness. He’s had such a tough time physically at recent Slams, and to see him suffer again—it’s very difficult.”

Sinner, now just the ninth man in the Open era to reach seven consecutive Grand Slam quarter-finals, made no attempt to celebrate the milestone, instead turning the spotlight to his opponent’s effort and character.

“We all saw by his reaction how much he cares. He’s one of the hardest workers on tour,” the 23-year-old added, before inviting the crowd to join him in applauding Dimitrov and his team. “It’s not the ending we wanted. We all wish him only the best.”

The match served as a sombre reminder of the brutal physical toll of elite tennis—on a night when victory felt more like a footnote than a triumph.

Wimbledon Apologises After Electronic Line-Call Blunder in Pavlyuchenkova Match

Wimbledon organisers have issued an apology after a controversial error with the electronic line-calling system marred Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova's fourth-round win over Britain's Sonay Kartal.

The All England Club confirmed that "human error" led to the Hawk-Eye Live system being manually deactivated mid-match—an incident that sparked confusion on Centre Court and led Pavlyuchenkova to claim the game had been "stolen" from her.

The issue occurred during the first set, when a Kartal backhand appeared to land long but no "out" call came from the automated system, which has replaced line judges at Wimbledon this year. Pavlyuchenkova, then holding a game point, stopped playing as the ball landed beyond the baseline.

Umpire Nico Helwerth paused play amid growing confusion, while the system's voice declared "stop, stop". After a short delay and a phone call to officials, Helwerth announced that Hawk-Eye had failed to track the ball and ordered the point to be replayed.

Kartal went on to win the point, breaking Pavlyuchenkova's serve for a 5-4 lead. At the changeover, a visibly frustrated Pavlyuchenkova was heard telling Helwerth: "You took the game away from me... They stole the game from me. They stole it."

The system failed to register three calls in that game, with Helwerth making the other two judgements himself. The AELTC confirmed he was unaware the system had been switched off.

"While the source of the issue was human error, this error cannot now be repeated due to system changes we have made," the Club said in a statement, adding that Hawk-Eye operators can no longer disable ball tracking. "We have apologised to the players involved."

Pavlyuchenkova eventually won the match 7-6(3), 6-4 to book her place in the quarter-finals but later criticised the decision to replay the point rather than award it to her. "It was really confusing," she said. "If something like that happens at a crucial moment, we need a wire system like in football."

She also called for a return to greater human involvement. "That's why we have a chair umpire. Otherwise, what's the point? It's becoming a bit robotic."

This year's switch to full electronic line-calling at Wimbledon has proven divisive. British number ones Jack Draper and Emma Raducanu have both questioned its reliability, while Swiss star Belinda Bencic confirmed it's sparked debate in the locker room.

Despite backing the technology's accuracy, Wimbledon officials admitted the system depends on operators, review officials, and tech working in harmony—something that, on this occasion, went wrong.

Sinner's Sweet Revenge: Italian Claims Historic Wimbledon Title Over Alcaraz

For most players, a defeat as agonising as Jannik Sinner's at the hands of Carlos Alcaraz in the French Open final would linger for years. But Sinner is not most players. One month after that harrowing loss in Paris, he turned heartbreak into triumph with a landmark win at Wimbledon.

Sinner recovered from a set down to produce a scintillating performance on Centre Court, defeating the two-time defending champion 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to clinch his maiden Wimbledon crown. In doing so, he became the first Italian in history to win a Wimbledon singles title.

Now a four-time Grand Slam champion, Sinner moves past the likes of Arthur Ashe, Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka in the all-time tally. More significantly, he ended a five-match losing streak to Alcaraz, adding fresh intensity to a rivalry that could well define the next era of men's tennis.

In their personal Grand Slam race – still very much in its early chapters – Sinner's latest success keeps him within reach of Alcaraz, who remains on five majors. This is also Sinner's first Slam title outside hard courts, following his wins at the Australian Open (2023 and 2024) and last year's US Open.

It's a remarkable response to what was one of the most painful nights of his career. In Paris, Sinner had three championship points and the match on his racket in the fourth set before Alcaraz staged a dramatic comeback. The image of Sinner sitting blankly while Alcaraz celebrated remains vivid – a picture of sporting heartbreak. But the 23-year-old's resilience has redrawn the narrative.





"He's so much better than me at the back", words that echoed through centre court as Carlos's frustration was showing.



The Wimbledon title also marks Sinner's first trophy since serving a three-month doping suspension between February and May. He had tested positive for clostebol last year, but after successfully arguing it was a case of contamination, no initial ban was imposed. When WADA appealed, a resolution agreement was reached, resulting in a retroactive three-month suspension.

His victory over Alcaraz showcased more than just physical endurance. After losing the first set despite an early 4-2 lead, Sinner stayed composed, quickly regaining control. Where his serve had faltered in Paris, it stood tall at Wimbledon – especially in the pressure-packed moments of the third set, where he fired a 117mph second-serve ace at 30-30, before sealing the game with another unreturnable serve. Alcaraz, by contrast, wobbled at key points, surrendering the decisive break.

The turning point came deep in the fourth set. Sinner, leading 4-3, wobbled slightly, allowing Alcaraz two break points. But this time, he didn't flinch. He held firm, then surged to the finish line with fearless aggression, sealing the title with the bold, clinical shot-making that now defines his game.

Aside from a fourth-round scare, where an elbow injury and a two-set deficit against Grigor Dimitrov threatened disaster before the Bulgarian retired, Sinner's campaign had been more consistent than Alcaraz's. And for once, the Spaniard's firepower and fighting spirit weren't enough to drag him through.

Jannik Sinner had come full circle – from devastation in Paris to glory at Wimbledon. And with his growing collection of Grand Slam titles, he's no longer chasing history. He's making it.

Fernandez Storms to DC Open Title with Commanding Win Over Kalinskaya

Leylah Fernandez produced a dazzling display of form to clinch the DC Open title with a dominant 6-1, 6-2 win over Anna Kalinskaya, capturing the biggest title of her career and her first at WTA 500 level.

The Canadian, still just 22, swept through the final in just over an hour to secure her fourth career title—all on hard courts—and her first since lifting the Hong Kong Open trophy in October 2023. Her victory capped a resurgent week in Washington, where she rediscovered the fearless tennis that took her to the US Open final in 2021.



There was almost a rematch of that famous New York showdown with Emma Raducanu, but Kalinskaya halted the Briton in the semi-finals. However, she was unable to stop Fernandez, who was clinical throughout Sunday's encounter. Fernandez faced just one break point all match, which she saved, and punished Kalinskaya's second serve ruthlessly, winning 10 of the 12 points in that department.

Kalinskaya, who hadn't dropped a set all week before the final, was undone by 24 unforced errors, unable to match Fernandez's consistency or pace. The Russian is still searching for her first WTA title after falling to 0-3 in finals.

Fernandez's path to the title was littered with big-name scalps, including world No.4 Jessica Pegula and 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, both of whom she defeated with poise and grit. Her semi-final against Rybakina was a three-hour, three-tiebreak epic—quite the contrast to the straightforward final.

With her mother, sister, and fitness trainer in mind, Fernandez dedicated the win to her inner circle:

“Thank you so much for never giving up on me — and don't give up on yourselves. This trophy is for you guys.”

After a difficult season, Fernandez's triumph in Washington signals a timely return to form—and a warning to the rest of the field ahead of the North American hard court swing.

De Minaur Pulls Off Daring DC Open Comeback to Deny Davidovich Fokina

Alex de Minaur pulled off one of the most remarkable comebacks of his career to win the Mubadala Citi DC Open, saving three match points to edge past Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(3) and lift his eighth ATP title.



The Australian looked to be heading for defeat when he trailed 4-1 and then 5-2 in the deciding set. Davidovich Fokina served for the title at 5-3 and held a 30-0 lead, but de Minaur clawed his way back, breaking serve and saving three match points in the following game. On the third of those, a desperate lob from De Minaur landed just 16 millimetres inside the sideline – a stroke of fortune that turned the tide decisively in his favour.

“It’s something about this court,” said de Minaur, who also saved match points at the same event in 2018 against Andrey Rublev. “I just backed myself and I told myself to commit no matter what and if I lost this match it was going to be on my terms. Today it went my way.”

It’s a crushing blow for Davidovich Fokina, who is still chasing his maiden ATP title. The 26-year-old has now fallen short in all four finals he has contested, including two this year where he held match points – the other coming in Delray Beach against Miomir Kecmanovic.

De Minaur, who returned to the Top 10 on the back of his Washington triumph, offered heartfelt words to his opponent in a classy victory speech: “Alejandro, you’re way too good to not have one of these. It’s coming for sure. You deserved it today. I just got lucky.”

The win sees de Minaur climb back to No. 8 in the ATP rankings, equalling his career-best position.



Osaka ends coaching partnership with Mouratoglou

Naomi Osaka has announced her split from coach Patrick Mouratoglou, drawing a line under their partnership after less than a year.

The four-time Grand Slam winner took to social media to share the news, writing on X: “Merci Patrick... it was such a great experience learning from you.”

Osaka linked up with Mouratoglou in September 2023 in a move that raised eyebrows across the tennis world. The Frenchman famously guided Serena Williams to 10 of her 23 Grand Slam titles during an 11-year spell, and his pairing with Osaka was seen as a potential catalyst for a major comeback.

But the Japanese star, who took the entire 2023 season off following the birth of her daughter, has found it difficult to rediscover the form that once took her to world number one.

Now ranked 49, Osaka is still searching for consistency on the WTA Tour. She fell in the first round at Roland-Garros and made a third-round exit at Wimbledon, despite signs of progress on the grass.

Her decision to part ways with Mouratoglou suggests a possible reset ahead of the hard-court season, where she has historically excelled. The US Open – a tournament she has won twice – begins later this summer and could offer the perfect stage for a resurgence.

Osaka has been open about her challenges, both on and off the court, and her comeback has drawn admiration for its honesty and resilience. But after a tough return to competition, her latest move hints at a desire to recalibrate her team as she targets a return to the top.

Whether she can reclaim her place among the elite remains to be seen, but few would bet against the 26-year-old rediscovering her spark.



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Jones and Loffhagen Claim Challenger Titles for Great Britain

British duo Francesca Jones and George Loffhagen capped off a successful week for GB tennis by lifting Challenger Tour trophies on Sunday.

Jones, 24, produced a commanding performance in Palermo to beat Dutchwoman Anouk Koevermans 6-3, 6-2 and secure her second title at this level. The Bradford-born player didn't drop a set all week and extended her winning run on clay to 10 matches following her triumph in Bastad just a week earlier.

Currently sitting just outside the top 100, Jones will break new ground when the rankings update, climbing to a career-high No.84 — her first appearance inside the world's top 100. It's a deserved reward after a career punctuated by injury setbacks and a first-round Wimbledon exit earlier this month.

Against Koevermans, Jones took control late in the first set by breaking to lead 5-3 and serving it out. She maintained her momentum in the second, breaking twice to seal a straightforward win and further stake her claim for a potential US Open berth, where she is the fourth alternate for the main draw.

Meanwhile in Segovia, 24-year-old George Loffhagen claimed his maiden Challenger Tour crown with a gritty 7-6(4), 6-7(4), 6-4 victory over Spain's Nicolas Alvarez Varona. The win marks a major milestone for the London-born player, who has been steadily climbing the ranks after turning pro in 2020.



Loffhagen held his nerve in a tense three-set battle, producing key serves under pressure and securing the decisive break in the third set to close out the match in just under three hours.

Both titles represent a timely boost for British tennis heading into the North American hard court swing.

Kunsuwan Hit with 12-Year Ban as ITIA Cracks Down on Corruption.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has issued a wave of suspensions in its continued crackdown on corruption in the sport, with Thai player Natthasith Kunsuwan handed the most severe penalty — a 12-year ban from tennis.



The 24-year-old admitted to 39 breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP), including match-fixing and failing to report corrupt approaches. Kunsuwan, who cooperated fully with the investigation, was also fined £55,000 (\\$73,600), of which £41,000 is suspended. He will be ineligible to return to the sport until 8 April 2036.

Frenchman Jaimee Floyd Angele, 22, was handed a five-year and three-month suspension after admitting to fixing a match in 2022 for payment. His offences also included failing to cooperate with the ITIA and destroying evidence. Angele accepted the sanction and was fined £14,900 (\\$19,900), half of which is suspended. His ban runs until 18 December 2029.

Former Davis Cup player Christian Lindell of Sweden, once ranked world No.177, was suspended for seven years and fined £7,450 (\\$9,970) for his involvement in one fixed match. He is barred from the sport until 9 June 2032.

French player Samuel Bensoussan received a one-year and 11-month suspension and an £8,940 (\\$11,960) fine for four instances of match-fixing. He will be eligible to return on 22 April 2027.

All four players are prohibited from competing in, coaching at, or even attending any event sanctioned by ITIA member bodies, including the ATP, WTA, ITF, and Grand Slam organisers.

These latest sanctions follow provisional suspensions handed to Dominican Republic players Jossting Cruz and Jasel Beltre earlier this month, as well as bans issued in May to Paul Valsecchi, Enzo Rimoli, Anze Arh, and Tom Jomby — the latter of whom was suspended for seven years after a contested case dating back to 2018.

The ITIA reaffirmed its commitment to preserving the integrity of tennis, stating that these decisions form part of its “ongoing effort to eradicate corruption from the sport.”

HEAD's new ENDURE series includes the ENDURE PRO BOA, the brand's first tennis shoe with BOA® Fit System.

HEAD's innovative spirit continues to give players an edge and change tennis. As HEAD's first tennis shoe engineered with BOA®, the new ENDURE PRO BOA is a perfect illustration of the brand's ambition and curiosity.

Launching in July 2025, the super-premium ENDURE PRO BOA is a highlight of the new ENDURE series that, with its advanced blend of speed, durability and stability, sits between the REVOLT and SPRINT series and combines the best of both worlds. With their sleek silhouettes, the shoes in the ENDURE series look and feel fast, and you can switch effortlessly from baseline play to an all-court game.

The ENDURE PRO BOA, which was developed and tested at the BOA® laboratories in the United States, as well as in intensive on-court trials, has BOA® PerformFit™ Wrap and Dual Li2 dials that deliver micro-adjustable precision fit. With the side panels offering extra stability when compared to other lacing methods, the ENDURE PRO BOA offers enhanced performance and comfort to allow players to produce their best tennis.



As the name suggests, the ENDURE series won't let you down: the ENDURE PRO BOA and the lace-up ENDURE PRO are made with new CORE-FRAME technology, with a 3D-TPU frame, which provides stability from heel to toe, including excellent torsional stability, and responds where needed.

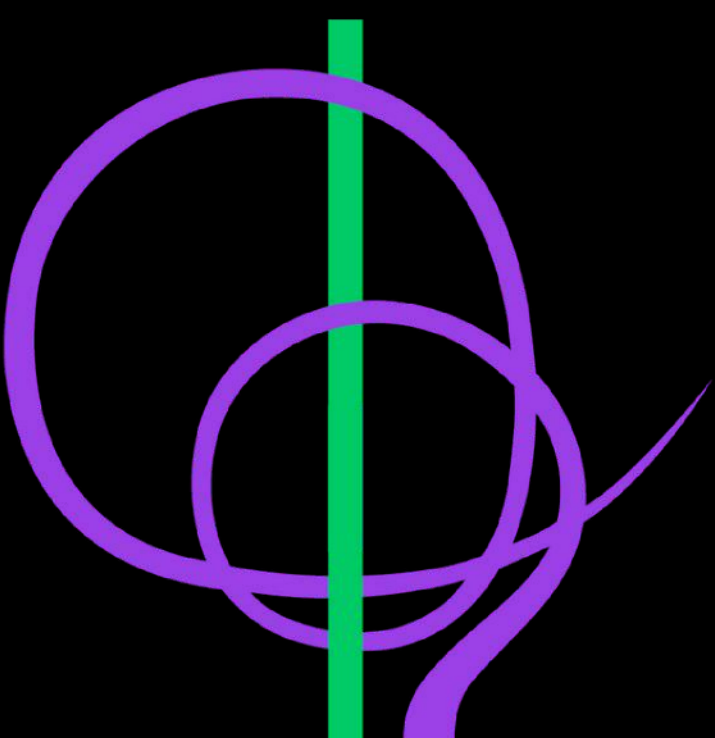
An integrated cooling system in the frame enhances ventilation and, in a dual midfoot construction, the heel contains DynaFoam for excellent shock absorption while the EVA in the forefoot is more reactive. For optimal flex and endurance, the ENDURE shoes have a PU molded upper, with extra material in some zones where it is needed for protection when sliding while other zones have reduced material to lower the weight.

Offered with a medium fit, which has a balance of comfort and support, the ENDURE PRO BOA and ENDURE PRO have a full sock construction that boosts comfort.

The ENDURE PRO BOA and the ENDURE PRO come with a multi-surface outsole while the ENDURE PRO BOA CLAY and the ENDURE PRO CLAY have an all-over pure herringbone tread that is designed for clay courts. All the outsoles are made with HEAD's Hybrasion+ non-marking rubber compound for outstanding grip and durability.







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From the 6 of July until 13 of July Mark Jan Greebe had the privilege of heading, for the first time, the GRSA Stringing Service in conjunction with Wilson & Luxilon, a great tournament in the Netherlands.



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They strung at the ITF The Hague future. It was a m35 and a w75 event.

The team, assisted by Steffens Dieffenbach from Germany, and Florian Werger from the Netherlands, with Noor also on hand to help with front desk due to it being very busy.

It was a great event where they dealt with a total of 294 rackets.

The highest tension we strung was 28 kg and the lowest was 19 kg.

Next year has already been confirmed, so, until next year!

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Here's a breakdown of the network

Parnell Knot - 2012, Parnell Academy - 2016, Parnell Language Services - 2016



In 2022 GRSA was launched



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In 2024



In 2025





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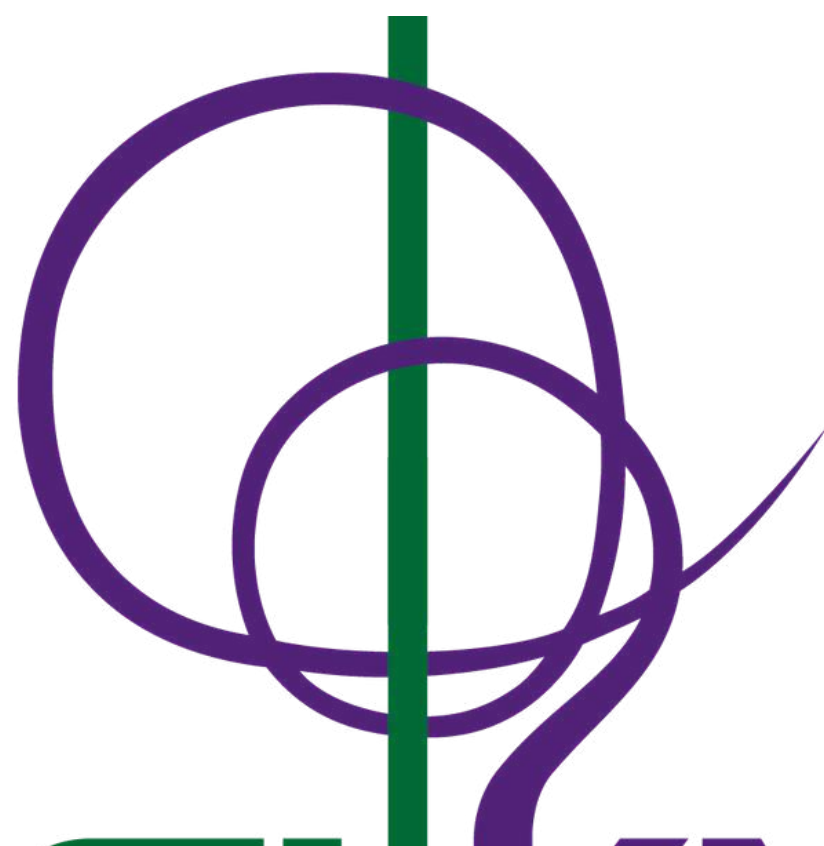
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Dialectic Zug Open 2025

The PRS & GRSA stringing team spent a beautiful week with long working days due to difficult weather conditions in beautiful Zug / Switzerland, courtesy of HEAD.

We saw a very competitive draw with No.1 seeded Z. Piros ATP 166 and No. 2 seeded M.-A. Huessler ATP 170 but also players such as C. Hemery, S. Taverna, F. Diaz Acosta but also the Swiss GS junior champion and rising star H. Bernet.

Heavy rain showers caused a lot of play suspensions and the semi final day had to be completely cancelled. SF and F had to be played on the sunday but in the end everything turned out well.

L. Klein from the Czech Republic and Frenchman H. Mayor made it to the final where Klein could capture the title in a very intense 3 set match.



Total of rackets: 225

Highest tension: 30kg - Lowest: 18,6

Average tension: 23,38 - String length used: 2,6 km

GRSA Workshop in Guangzhou

GRSA conducted the sixth workshop in China this year on 5th and 6th July in the Southern city of Guangzhou. We had our largest turn out thus far with 18 enthusiastic participants, ranging from complete beginners to experienced stringers. The workshop was once again led by our Asia Chief instructor, Ken and he was assisted by our China instructor, Ren.

After having trained and met so many stringers in the past year, one main takeaway from these workshops is always referring to the three main principles of racket stringing. All best practices, routines and methods that we teach will always link us back to these three principles.

Ensure the racket is not deformed.

Achieving accurate tension.

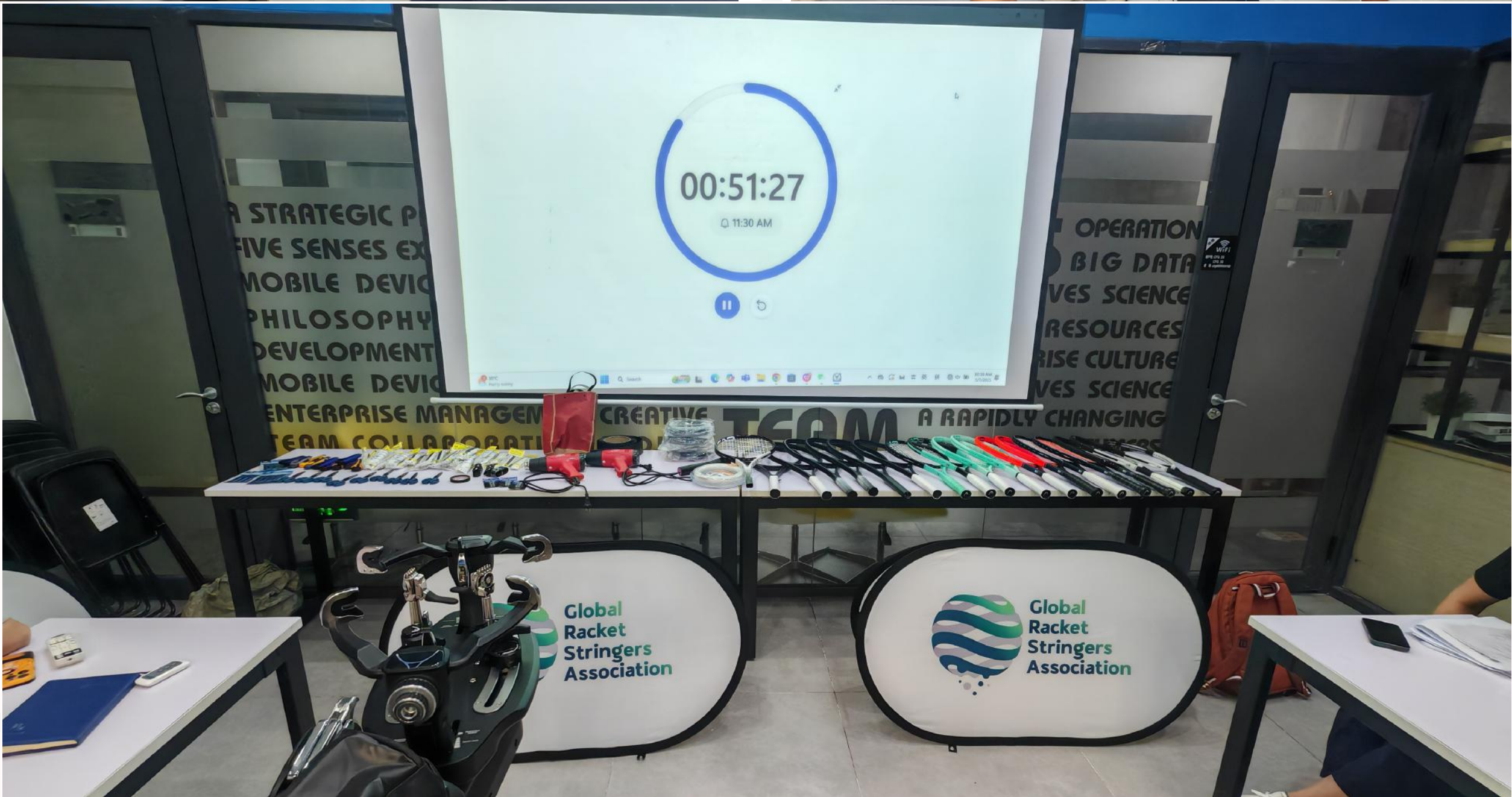
Installing the strings undamaged.

In all the workshops we have conducted, there are always robust discussions and clarifications on various techniques and practices that have been passed down from years ago. At times, these techniques and practices are outdated or obsolete as string technology and stringing machines have improved tremendously over the years. It is our mission to clarify and offer alternatives to improve the quality of racket stringing.

At GRSA, we strive to provide excellent stringing instructions and impart theoretical knowledge through our online courses and workshops. We always ensure the machine to student ratio is always kept to an optimum level so that participants have maximum practice time during the workshops. At every workshop we conduct, we see an overwhelming passion and eagerness to learn and practice to the point where we always end no earlier than 10pm on the first day of every workshop.

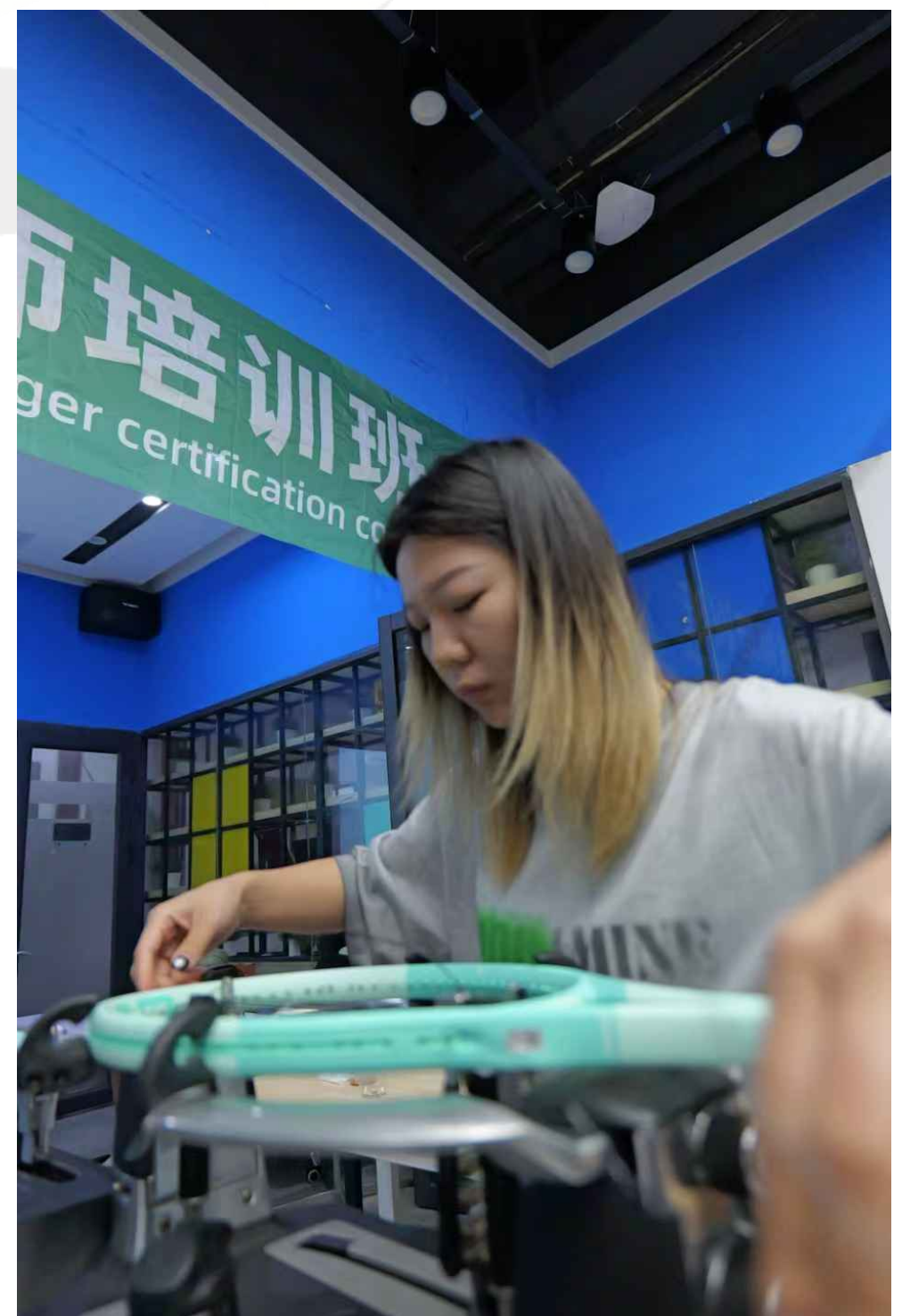
We started this journey in China in August 2024 and a year on, we have grown to more than 150 certified stringers and members in China. It is our great pleasure to be part of the journey in training the next generation of stringers and help them achieve their full potential.





If you missed this one...

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2025

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GRSA International's Second Annual Stringer's Conference: Come to Málaga!

It's going to be EPIC!

Following the remarkable success of our inaugural international conference, GRSA International is delighted to announce the Second Annual Stringer's Conference, taking place from Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th November 2025 at the stunning Wyndham Grand Costa del Sol.

This is far more than a conference — it's a vibrant celebration of our global stringing community. Professionals, enthusiasts, and innovators from around the world will come together to learn, share, and connect.



What Your Ticket Includes

Your conference pass unlocks:

- Full access to all presentations, workshops, and demonstrations
- A goodie bag packed with gear worth the price of your ticket
- 3 evening dinners (including beverages), featuring a cocktail night and an unmissable gala night
- Morning coffee breaks and networking opportunities
- Full tournament day on Thursday with tennis and padel matches
- Live entertainment, industry surprises, and a buzzing international atmosphere

Tickets are limited. Reserve yours now:

- 275€ for members
- 350€ for non-members
- 125€ for plus-ones (includes access to the welcome mixer, cocktail and gala dinner)



➔ **Book your place directly on our website.**

EXTENDED Early bird offer! Register by 15th of August, yes, you have another two weeks to receive a complimentary tennis certification exam during the conference – an exclusive benefit for early registrants.

Returning Delegates — We've Got Something Special for You

If you joined us last year, you’ve already received your personal invitation — and for good reason. As a gesture of our gratitude, all returning participants will receive a special gift, created exclusively for GRSA International by our friends at Wilson Sports.

Accommodation Details

Delegates can book their stay directly with our host venue, the beautiful Wyndham Grand Costa del Sol.

To enjoy our discounted rate, use the GRSA booking code: **9900190743**.
Click the booking image here or our website and please ensure you select Wyndham Grand.

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 Guests 2 guests, 1 room	 Check-in Wed, 12 Nov 2025	 Check-out Sun, 16 Nov 2025
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Activities for Partners and Families

We’re making this year’s event even more inclusive. Partners and family members are welcome to enjoy a range of optional add-on activities — including spa experiences, local excursions, and day trips throughout Málaga and the Andalusian coastline. Full details will be available shortly.

Be Part of the Industry’s Most Anticipated Gathering

Whether you’re a seasoned tour stringer or just starting out, this is your opportunity to grow, connect, and be inspired. With an exciting line-up of speakers — including Ron Rocchi (Wilson) and Denis Fabian (HEAD) — hands-on workshops, and unforgettable evening events, this year’s conference promises to be truly unmissable.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Costa del Sol!

For further details or enquiries, please contact us at: info@grsa-international.com



2 MAESTROS - 1 GOAL

Norwegian conductor Rune Bergmann, current Music Director of the Peninsula Music Festival in Wisconsin, is currently in Málaga and decided to add another string to his already experienced bow... ok ok, it's a batón and doesn't have strings, but he's not only used to all kinds of instruments, he's also very passionate about stringing, that's why he's taken on the GRSA Certified Pro & Pro Master Stringer certifications.



He has been collaborating with some of today's most acclaimed and legendary soloists including Truls Mørk, Leif Ove Andsnes, Jefim Bronfman to name just a few, so it was only right that he take on a master class from another industry reference, Richard Parnell @ GRSA HQ.





Rune graduated with the highest honours from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, where he studied conducting under Chief Conductor Emeritus of the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra & former principal conductor of the Vienna Radio, Finnish Radio, and Danish National symphony orchestras, Leif Segerstam.

So his attention to detail and dedication to excellence is nothing short of brilliant. He also shares the commitment for people to see just how important a stringer's role is in the industry, as is that of a conductor and director of a team of professional musicians, irreplaceable!

DOUBLE HALF HITCH (DHH) – Yay or Nay

A double half hitch is probably the most used knot throughout the history of stringing. Does this mean it still has a place in professional stringing today?

As most GRSA members will know, GRSA International doesn't recommend the DHH be used in modern stringing. You might ask, why?

Does the DHH get the job done? Yes it does. Are there better knots out there? Yes, there are.

The DHH has been used without issues for years, however, when being tightened, it closes directly around the anchor string. What does this mean or what could be the result of this? The anchor string could be weakened or crimped and if a shot were hit in this area it could lead to a premature breakage. Would this premature breakage happen every time? No, but the risk is there none the less.

The DHH is often used for all knots, including as a starting knot. This is not advised as the DHH is not made to be tightened in this way.

Another negative is the knot pulling into the grommet, wearing grommets prematurely.

Why take the risk of using the DHH when there are excellent alternatives? There is no excuse for not using a type of knot that doesn't close directly around the anchor string and reduces any risk of premature breakage. For this reason GRSA recommends the Pro Knot or the Parnell Knot.

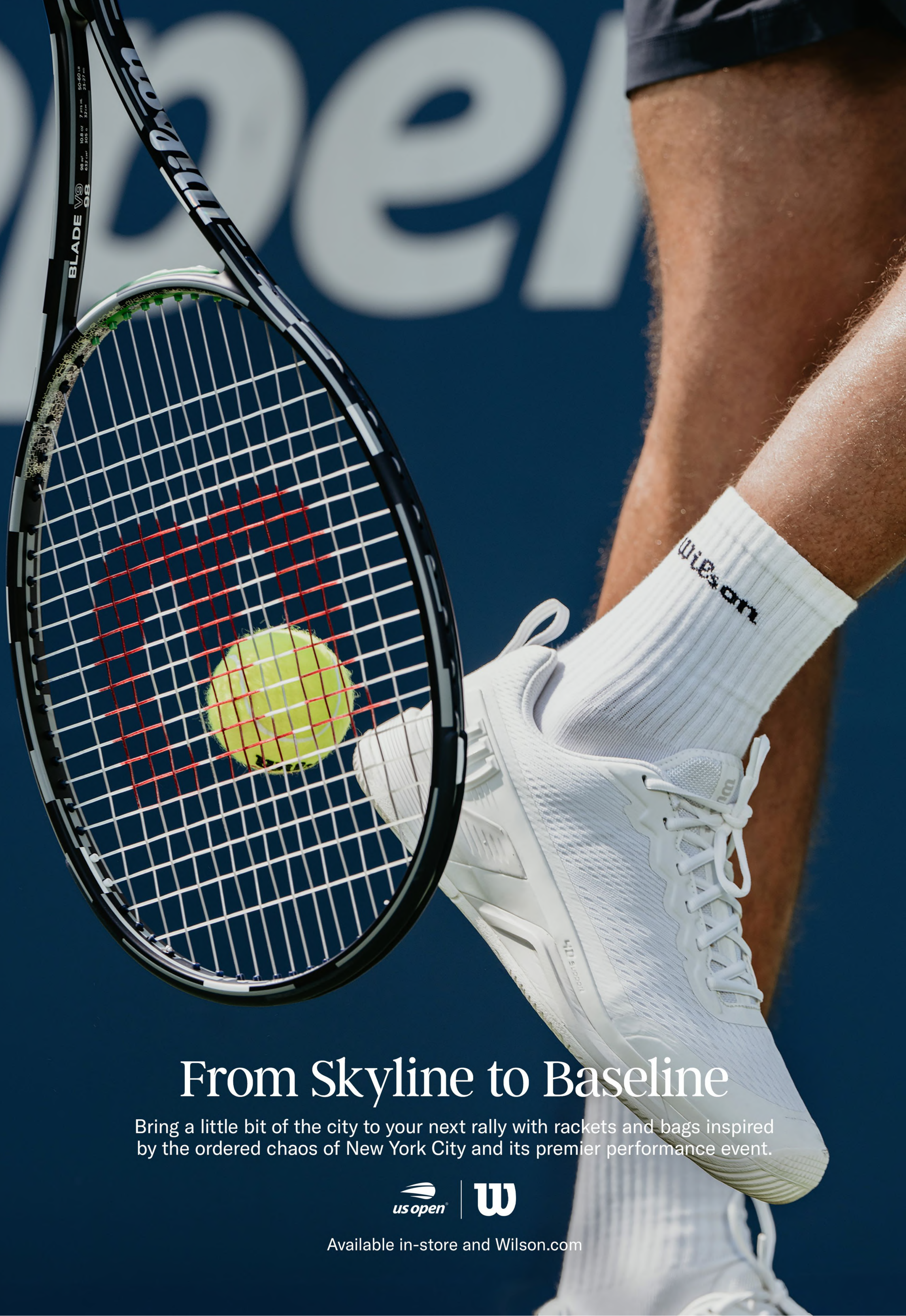
I often hear the saying "I've used a DHH for 50 years with no issues, why would I change?" I like to think that stringing has come a long way in 50 years and certain issues were not given the same importance as they are today.

One thing that is a cert is that the DHH has no place in Tour Stringing and no stringing team on the tour will accept the DHH as an acceptable knot to be used by their stringers.

Neat knots can make the difference and show the care you have taken over the restring.

Remember – The difference is in the small details.

Any personal tips to share with stringers? Let us know and get them published in the Stringer Solutions part of the GRSA ATW Magazine



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NICK DOWN take on the



Prince Powerbite

this month We'll look at the Prince Powerbite Pattern.

This is a relatively new pattern by Prince and started with the Beast and Shark. There are newer models too and the pattern is still in use today.

For the first time in Prince squash, because there are only 14 mains that still finish at the head, the start is in the centre of the powering at the throat.

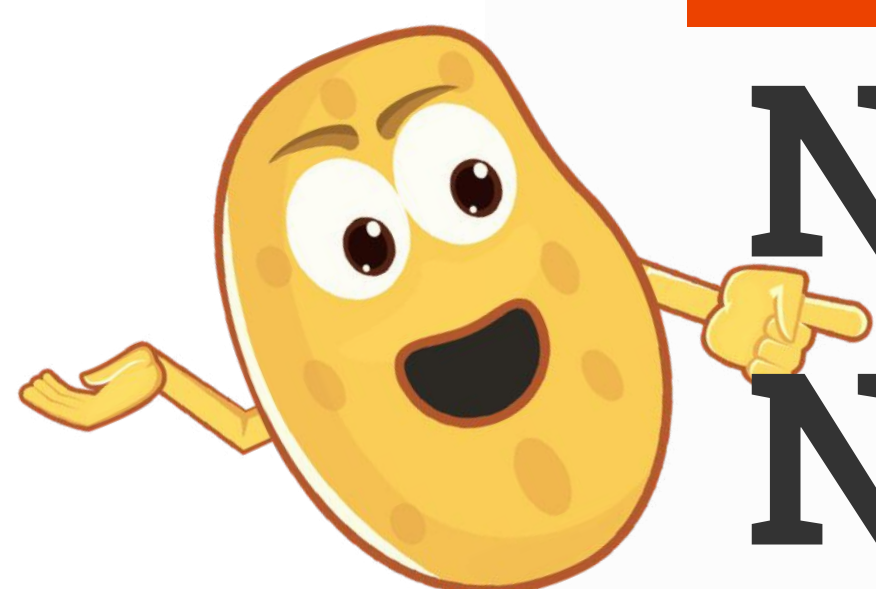
So far, all the Prince Powering patterns that we have looked at; Triple Threat, O3, O3 Speedport and EXO3, all have 16 mains and start at the head.

You may have noticed, so far, that I have always gone under the ring on the left and over the ring on the right. It is for more than 1 reason; it creates alternate mains around the ring, in fact, either way would work. However, it is important to retain this information in your mind, eventually, without the need to look up patterns, except in an emergency. Another reason is to assist the stringer to recognise that there is a relationship between most models on the Non-Standard list depending on the route taken and the direction of travel of the centre mains (from H to T, or from T to H).

The Powerbite Pattern, for the very first time, starts around the ring and travels up the racquet therefore, it's important that the centre main on the left goes above the ring and therefore the centre main on the right, will have had to go below the ring. That will mean that the 1st main coming down from the head on the left goes below the ring and keeps the same formula intact (Remember! It is the 2nd main on the left coming down from H to T, not the 1st).

I have seen non-powerbite versions of the shark and beast with 16 mains not 14, they may be copies or, in fact, may be made by Prince, legitimately. However, it just goes to show, that you must establish which racquet that you've got before you attempt to string it.

There is one difference between the shark and the beast. It only affects the Crosses and I'll deal with it when listing instructions.



Nick's Nugget

If a racket has a hole, of any size, at the throat, that you could poke your finger through. It's got an "open throat".

Virtually all principles remain the same. There is still a requirement for 2 piece stringing, to avoid long runs along the outside of the frame. There is still a need for a hard weave at the bottom cross/powering, there are no O-ports, Speedports nor EXO3 technology, just ordinary holes with grommets. There are no double-barrelled grommets just a few shared holes. However, as there are 15 crosses, there must be a top cross that will match the hard-weave of the bottom cross at the throat.

Mains(2 piece)

Start at ring

Above ring to 1LH

Below ring to 1RH

1LH to 2LH

2LH to below ring

Above ring to 3LH.

1RH to 2RH

2RH to above ring

Below ring to 3RH



Then for BEAST (and all similar patterns) only:-

SKIP: 5H, 7H, 9H, 10H, (11H is shared with a cross).

Crosses:-

Start at 5H with knot at 4H (must go under 4LH and over 4RH).

15 crosses, tie off at 2LT or 2RT.

Then for SHARK (and all similar patterns) only:-

SKIP: 6H, 8H. (4H and 9H are shared with crosses).

Crosses:-

Start at 4H with knot at 5H (must go over 3LH and under 3RH).

15 crosses, tie off at 2LT or 2RT.

The Powerbite pattern has more power and more bite, according to Prince, achieved with a more open pattern, (see the A-Z of Stringing, Squash Supplement).

Next month the Prince 'Powerfan' pattern without any type of ring at the throat!

EMAIL ME AT:

nick@grsa-international.com



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Spotify

Khaled-Jousselin Unstoppable

France's top junior, Amir Khaled-Jousselin, continued his flawless season with another straight-games victory, this time overcoming South Africa's Luhann Groenewald 11-4, 11-9, 11-9 in the boys' U19 final at the Frans Otten Stadion.

While the opening game was one-way traffic, Groenewald, known for his gritty double-handed style, made the Frenchman work for it in the second and third. But Khaled-Jousselin kept his composure and sealed the match in three.

"I kept saying, 'One more, one more.' The key is hard work and always pushing your limits," said the 17-year-old.

The Dutch crown adds to his wins in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and at both the European U19 Individual and Team Championships. His next challenge is the World Junior Championships in Cairo.



"It's not bad," he smiled. "But I always want more."

Moxham Triumphs Near Home

In the girls' U19 final, Belgium's Savannah Moxham held her nerve to beat local favourite Renske Huntelaar 9-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-3. The second seed, now based in the USA and coached by her parents at MSquash in Connecticut, grew stronger as the match went on.

"It feels really special to win here. I grew up nearby, so having family and my coaches watching meant everything," said the 16-year-old.

Moxham now heads to Hamburg for the European Junior Open.



Egyptian Dominance Continues

Egyptian juniors swept six of the remaining eight titles:

BU17: Michael Fayez def. Omar El-Tabbakh

GU17: Mariam El Mattet def. Reka Kemecsei (ENG)

BU15: Omar Sadek def. John Peter Pierce (USA)

GU15: Lana Fathallah def. Sandy Hassan

GU13: Amy Hassan def. Layan Omara

GU11: Aysel Ashour def. Delilah Grace Pease (BVI)

Colombia's Esteban Suarez took the BU13 title over Peru's Mauricio Trisano, while the BU11 trophy went to the USA's Archibald Anolik.



Unforgettable Encounters: Six Classic Clashes from the PSA Squash Tour 2024/25

From five-game thrillers to history-making performances, the 2024/25 PSA Squash Tour served up some of the most dramatic moments the sport has seen in years. Here, we revisit six standout matches that had fans on the edge of their seats.

Farag and Elias Deliver a Parisian Epic

Ali Farag (EGY) bt Diego Elias (PER) 3-2, 7-11, 14-12, 6-11, 11-7, 11-4 (95m)

The Paris Squash semi-final between two of the tour’s finest was pure theatre. Diego Elias, the reigning World Champion, had the upper hand early, but Ali Farag, ever the tactician, found his way back into the contest.

Trailing 2-1, the Egyptian showed his trademark resilience to level, before overwhelming Elias in the decider to cap off a gruelling 95-minute masterpiece.

"Ali just refused to go away. That final game was as clinical as it gets."

Orfi’s Coming of Age in El Gouna

Amina Orfi (EGY) bt Nour El Sherbini (EGY) 3-2, 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 11-13, 11-9 (101m)

At just 17, Amina Orfi stunned seven-time World Champion Nour El Sherbini in a breathtaking quarter-final. Their Egyptian Open encounter earlier in the season had gone El Sherbini’s way—this time, Orfi flipped the script.

In a 101-minute slugfest, she ended El Sherbini’s incredible run of 39 straight PSA semi-final appearances.

"The match of her life so far—fearless, focused, phenomenal."



Did You Know?

The 2024/25 season saw more five-game matches than any other in PSA history, with 38% of main draw clashes going the distance.

Farag Roars Back in NYC

Ali Farag (EGY) bt Mohamed ElShorbagy (ENG) 3-2, 8-11, 7-11, 11-1, 11-8, 11-9 (72m)

Grand Central Terminal was rocking as two titans clashed at the Tournament of Champions. ElShorbagy turned back the clock to lead 2-0 and looked destined for a famous win when he led 8-3 in the fifth.

Farag had other ideas, a stunning late surge to steal the win and book his spot in the semis.

Orfi Breaks Through in Singapore

Amina Orfi (EGY) bt Hania El Hammamy (EGY) 3-2, 9-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-1, 11-9 (96m)

In one of the season’s most emotional battles, Orfi reached her first Gold final by toppling World No.3 Hania El Hammamy in five games. Having already played a marathon match in El Gouna, the teenager again showed incredible physical and mental strength.

Yow Ng Outlasts Crouin in the Longest Battle of the Season

Eain Yow Ng (MAS) bt Victor Crouin (FRA) 3-2, 9-11, 12-10, 11-1, 6-11, 20-18 (107m)

The Singapore crowd witnessed the longest match of the PSA season as Malaysia’s Yow Ng and France’s Victor Crouin left everything on court in a 107-minute war of attrition.

The deciding game alone lasted nearly half an hour, with both players holding match balls. In the end, Yow Ng edged it 20-18 to seal a career-defining win.



El Hammamy’s Redemption Run in New York

Hania El Hammamy (EGY) bt Nouran Gohar (EGY) 3-2, 8-11, 11-8, 3-11, 11-6, 11-8 (79m)

After a heart-breaking exit in 2024, Hania El Hammamy returned to New York with purpose. After taking down El Sherbini in the semi-finals, she rallied from 2-1 down in the final to defeat long-time rival Nouran Gohar and clinch the prestigious Tournament of Champions.

"This title meant everything. It was about belief, not just ability."



Bea González Claims Redemption in Málaga with Hometown Triumph

Twelve months after heartbreak in her hometown, Bea González returned to Málaga and wrote the perfect comeback story—this time walking away with the Premier Padel Málaga P1 title alongside partner Claudia Fernandez.

Last year, González's tournament ended in frustration when injury forced her to withdraw from the semi-finals. Speaking to Marca at the time, she reflected stoically: "That's life as an athlete. Sometimes things like that happen."

But on home soil once again, the 22-year-old found her revenge—and did so in emphatic fashion. In front of an adoring local crowd, González and Fernandez swept past Marta Ortega and Tamara Icardo in the final, sealing a commanding 6-2, 6-1 victory.

"I'm delighted to have won the title here at home," said an emotional González after the win. "I'm super happy to have played in front of these people and to have played a great match."

The Andalusian crowd gave their full backing throughout the tournament, spurring on their local hero as she lifted silverware on a court just minutes from where her padel journey began.

For Fernández, still only 18, the win marks another milestone in a breakthrough season—while for González, it was the sweet taste of redemption, earned in front of family, friends, and thousands of fans who never stopped believing.





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Shuffling the Pack: New Pairings and a Fresh Seeding Ahead of the Next Premier Padel Stop

The road to the next Premier Padel tournament has been shaken up by a flurry of last-minute changes on the men’s side, with several high-profile partnerships coming to an end and an injury forcing a reshuffle of the seedings.

Pablo Cardona and Leo Augsburger have officially gone their separate ways, as have Martín Di Nenno and Juan Tello, marking the end of two dynamic but inconsistent partnerships. Meanwhile, Jon Sanz has been ruled out of the event due to injury, further opening the draw and impacting the tournament’s seeding.

The result? A brand-new order at the top—here’s how the men’s main draw seeding now shapes up:

1	1	Arturo Coello ESP 17940 points	1	Agustin Tapia ARG 17940 points	35880
2	3	Alejandro Galan ESP 12490 points	3	Federico Chingotto ARG 12490 points	24980
3	5	Franco Stupaczuk ARG 8255 points	6	Juan Lebron ESP 7820 points	16075
4	7	Miguel Yanguas ESP 7009 points	8	Jorge Nieto Ruiz ESP 6277 points	13286
5	11	Lucas Bergamini BRA 4755 points	13	Francisco Navarro ESP 4470 points	9225
6 LL i	12	Jeronimo Gonzalez ESP 4580 points	14	Eduardo Alonso ESP 3922 points	8502
7	9	Martin Di Nenno ARG 5690 points	18	Leandro Roman Augsburger ARG 2732 points	8422
8	15	Pablo Cardona ESP 3802 points	20	Juan Tello ARG 2497 points	6299
9	16	Francisco Guerrero ESP 3080 points	22	Javier Leal ESP 2222 points	5302
10	29	Inigo Jofre UAE 1780 points	19	Alejandro Arroyo ESP 2539 points	4319

La Línea to Host Europe’s Top Team Padel Event in October

From 21 to 25 October, La Línea de la Concepción (Cádiz, Spain) will become the centre of European team padel as it hosts the Final 8 of the FIP Euro Padel Cup 2025. Organised by the International Padel Federation (FIP), the event will bring together the eight best national teams on the continent, both in the men’s and women’s categories.

Following the completion of Phases 1 and 2 in Madrid, the qualified nations are now confirmed and will compete for the European title in a stunning coastal setting overlooking the Mediterranean.

The action officially gets underway on Monday 20 October with an opening ceremony, before five days of top-level competition take centre stage in one of Spain’s most scenic venues.

Ustero Makes History with First Premier Padel Title in France

Andrea Ustero captured her maiden Premier Padel title in memorable fashion, clinching victory alongside Sofia Araújo in a thrilling women's final in France.

The Spanish-Portuguese duo overcame Bea Caldera and Carmen Goenaga 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 in a match that swung with momentum before Ustero and Araújo found their rhythm in the decider.

For 18-year-old Ustero, the win was particularly special. After falling short in several previous finals, she finally broke through — and in doing so, became the youngest champion in Premier Padel history at 18 years, 1 month and 24 days, surpassing the record previously held by Claudia Fernandez.

“This victory is the result of a lot of hard work,” said an emotional Ustero. “I dedicate all this to those who have supported me since I first started playing padel, to my family, and to Sofia, who is a true example for me.”

The title marked Araújo's third on the Premier Padel circuit, having previously lifted trophies in Genova and NewGiza. The experienced Portuguese player praised her young partner and their spirited opponents.

“I congratulate Andrea on her first title, but also Bea and Carmen on reaching their first final. I hope this is the first of many tournaments we'll win together.”

Caldera and Goenaga, both emerging talents in their own right, impressed with their run to the final and will surely be in contention again as the season progresses.

With the French leg complete, the Premier Padel tour now pauses briefly before heading to Málaga next week, where both the men's and women's draws promise another week of top-level competition.



It doesn't matter if you're an experienced player or just starting out, knowing where you can go to take part in open competitions is part of the fun of this forever growing sport, so here are some of the dates, visit the Pickleball Global website for more info.

WPC Series-Thailand Pickleball Championship 2025

EID: 2115 **PRICE** THB 1350

Organizer: Thai Admin

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: October 18, 2025 to October 20, 2025

City: Rugby School Thailand, 2 ตำบล เขาไม้แก้ว อำเภอบางละมุง ชลบุรี ประเทศไทย

Tournament Venue: Rugby International School

Registration Deadline: October 10, 2025 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 3

WPC SERIES - MATTA MALAYSIA PICKLEBALL GRAND SLAM 2025 (INDIVIDUAL EVENT - ADULT OPEN)

EID: 2015 **PRICE** MYR 150

Organizer: Admin Malaysia

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: October 14, 2025 to October 16, 2025

City: Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Tournament Venue: Pikabol Malaysia

Registration Deadline: September 16, 2025 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 3

2025 Amsterdam Open

EID: 2081 **PRICE** EUR 20

Organizer: Pim Huberts

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: October 11, 2025 to October 11, 2025

City: Amsterdam, Nederland

Tournament Venue: Pickleball Amsterdam

Registration Deadline: September 28, 2025 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 1

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Life Time Launches Groundbreaking LT Open with \$100,000 Singles Prize Pool

Life Time (NYSE: LTH), one of North America's premier health and wellness companies and a key player in the sport's rapid expansion, has unveiled its inaugural LT Open – a new singles-only pickleball tournament set to take place 11–19 October at Life Time Peachtree Corners in Atlanta.

The event will spotlight elite-level men's and women's singles play, with 16 players from each gender progressing from qualifier brackets into a high-stakes championship draw. The finals will be broadcast live on ESPN2 on Sunday, 19 October, from 3–5 p.m. ET, with the winners walking away with a \$50,000 prize each.

“The LT Open is a defining moment in competitive singles pickleball for players and spectators alike,” said Bahram Akradi, Life Time Founder, Chairman and CEO. **“Just as the US Open has become a cultural staple in tennis, we believe the LT Open will set a new gold standard for singles pickleball, bringing energy, fanfare and meaningful rewards to the sport.”**

Connor Pardoe, CEO of the United Pickleball Association – which includes the PPA Tour and Major League Pickleball – echoed the excitement: **“Life Time has been an incredible partner in growing pickleball nationwide. The LT Open will be a key fixture on the pickleball calendar and a world-class test for the sport's top athletes.”**

Life Time members will enjoy complimentary access to the grounds, with additional details and registration available via the LT Open website.

The LT Open comes as pickleball participation soars across the US. According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, nearly 20 million Americans took up the sport in 2024 – a staggering 312% increase over three years.

Life Time's role has been instrumental. The brand now operates over 800 dedicated courts and has expanded its reach with innovations like the LT Pro 48 Pickleball, a high-performance ball, and an instructional video library featuring stars Ben and Collin Johns.

JOOLA and Tyrol have also joined as the official paddle and footwear partners, underscoring the tournament's top-tier ambitions.

Life Time (NYSE: LTH) is a North American health and wellness company that operates over 180 premium athletic clubs in the US and Canada. It also offers a free, all-in-one fitness and lifestyle app, and organises nearly 30 major sporting events across the region, all aimed at helping people lead healthier, happier lives.

Pickleball: The Social Sport Keeping You Young, Active and Connected

Pickleball may be a fast-growing sport, but for millions of players, it's much more than just a game, it's a community. Whether you're exchanging playful banter during a match or sharing laughs over a post-game drink, the camaraderie on the court plays a powerful role in supporting your mental and emotional wellbeing.

In fact, research shows that strong social connections can reduce the risk of early mortality by nearly 50%. Regular interaction with others helps lower stress, reduce inflammation, and even promote cardiovascular health. And few activities create social opportunities quite like pickleball.

The game's doubles format and casual structure naturally encourage conversation. According to HUDEF Pickleball's blog, *The Social Magic of Pickleball*, "Players often find themselves exchanging stories, tips, and friendly banter between points, creating an environment conducive to making new friends."

Whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned player, joining a local club or league is not just about honing your serve—it's about building lasting friendships that enrich your life on and off the court.

As we age, staying active and socially engaged becomes even more important. Physical movement keeps the body strong, while connection supports cognitive health and mental resilience. Supporting that vitality at the cellular level is just as important. Supplements such as Mitopure, powered by Urolithin A, are designed to help maintain energy and muscle strength as the years go by, aiding longevity both physically and mentally.

With clubs and communities organising regular events, tournaments and social gatherings, keeping an eye on their social media channels—be it Instagram, Facebook or TikTok—can help you stay involved and inspired.

Because in the end, it's not just about playing the game—it's about connecting, thriving, and staying young one point at a time.



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AIU Suspends Official After Badminton Blunder at World University Games

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has suspended its Joint Secretary, Baljit Singh Sekhon, following a major administrative error that prevented six Indian badminton players from competing at the World University Games in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany.

The controversy erupted after officials failed to properly submit six names during the manager's meeting on 16 July. As a result, Rohan Kumar, Darshan Pujari, Aditi Bhatt, Abhinash Mohanty, Viraj Kuvale, and Alisha Khan — all members of the 12-player squad — were denied the opportunity to participate.

In response, the AIU has formed an inquiry panel to investigate the matter, with Secretary General Dr Pankaj Mittal confirming that the findings are expected within 15 days. He also stated that, after consultation with the International University Sports Federation (FISU), the affected athletes will receive medals and certificates in line with standard procedure.

The incident has sparked anger and calls for accountability. Player Darshan Pujari is reported to have emailed the Badminton Association of India demanding a formal investigation. Meanwhile, shuttler Alisha Khan took to Instagram to accuse the authorities of negligence and a cover-up.

“Lies, lies, and lies,” she wrote. “It’s extremely disappointing to see Mr Baljeet Singh now defending the situation by claiming it was a ‘pre-decided decision by the coaches’ to send a strong team.”

The root of the issue appears to stem from selection trials held at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneswar, where reports suggest wider irregularities in the process.

AIU officials BV Rao and Ajit Mohan were present during the key meeting where the administrative mishap occurred. The AIU has acknowledged the incident and pledged to take corrective action based on the inquiry panel's recommendations.



Nguyen Thuy Linh Reaches Historic World Ranking for Vietnam



Vietnamese badminton star Nguyen Thuy Linh has achieved a career-best world ranking of No. 18 in the women's singles, marking the highest-ever position for a Vietnamese female player, according to the latest update from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

The 26-year-old earned 5,950 points after finishing runner-up at the Canada Open 2025 earlier this month. That result, combined with her second-place finish at the German Open in March, has brought her total to 49,550 ranking points.

The BWF's weekly rankings, released on Tuesday, confirmed Linh's new position, surpassing her previous personal best of No. 20 achieved in 2023.

Linh chose not to compete at the recent Japan Open and China Open, opting to rest and recover following her run in Canada. She is set to return to action at the BWF World Championships in France in late August.

Looking ahead to September, Linh may also feature at the Vietnam Open, where she has been dominant in recent years, winning the women's singles title three times in a row. However, the event offers fewer ranking points due to its lower-tier status on the international circuit.

Linh's ascent in the global rankings is a significant milestone for Vietnamese badminton and underscores her growing status among the sport's elite.

JAPAN OPEN

HIGHLIGHTS

20
25



Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin in action during the Japan Open 2025 mixed doubles final.



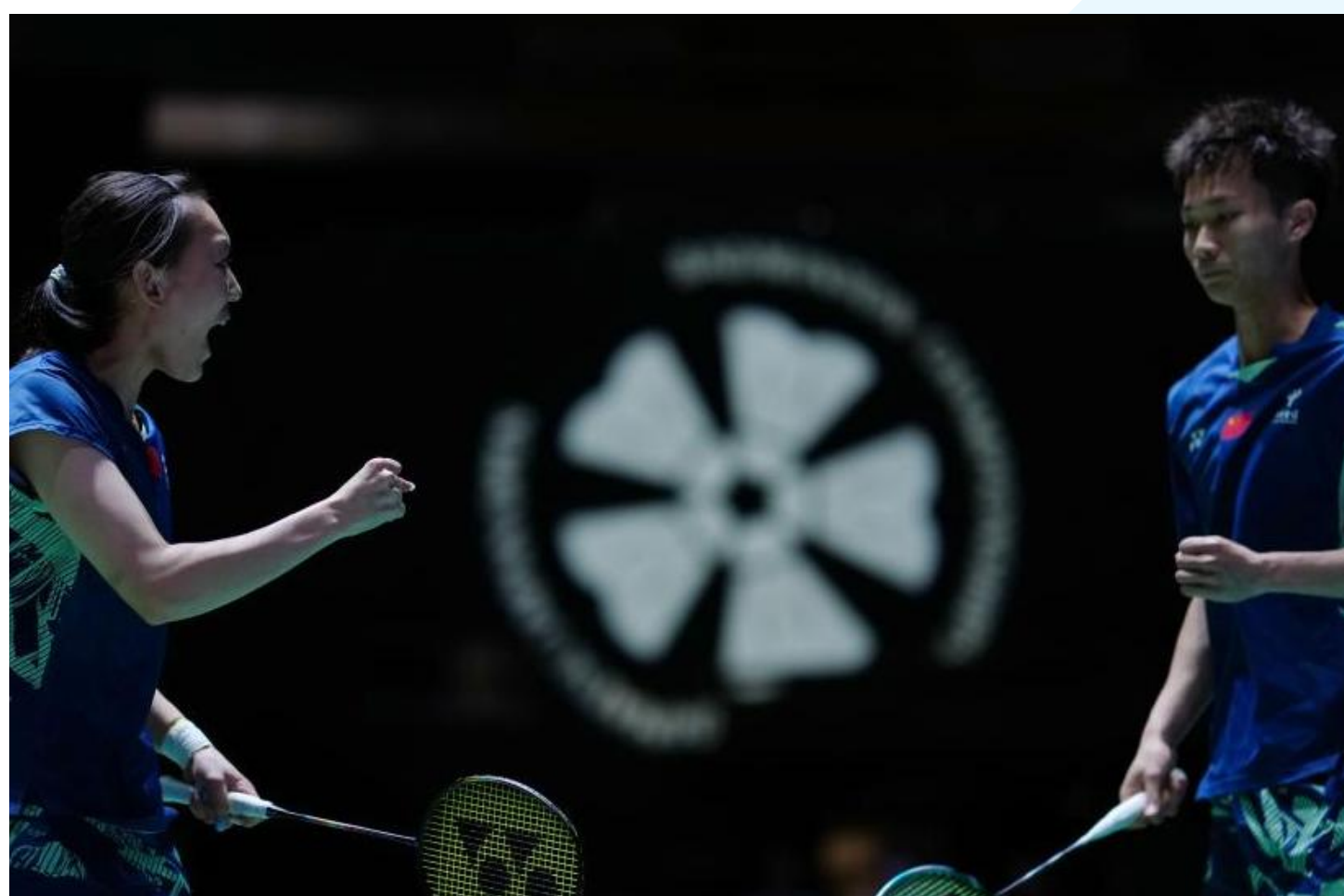
Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin celebrate their mixed doubles title during the awards ceremony in Tokyo.



Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin press forward at the net in a tense mixed doubles final against Thailand.



Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran compete in the mixed doubles final at the Japan Open.



Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin celebrate a crucial point during the mixed doubles final in Tokyo.



Alex Lanier shows his fighting spirit during the men's singles final in Tokyo.



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q - Why is a GRSA certification good for me?

A - When a stringer shows a GRSA certification, this is a clear sign that they have received the best training currently available and will provide a professionally balanced service.

Q - What makes GRSA stand out from the rest?

A - GRSA is a globally recognised association that includes some of the best and most knowledgeable Professionals, Master Stringers and Grand Master Stringers in the industry, this means the knowledge base is incomparable.

Q - What does GRSA teach its certified stringers?

A - GRSA teaches the importance of looking after the player, from the basics to the most intricate of details. How to provide accurate information, how to help improve and guide each individual.

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